

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 178740

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 178740

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: CASC, SP (GATCH, THOMAS LEIGH, JR.)

SUBJECT:W/W MISSING BALLOONIST COL. THOMAS L. GATCH

REF: STATE 176978

ARMY MEDICAL RECORDS FOR GATCH INDICATE HE WAS MISSING TEETH NUMBERS 1 AND 16 (LAST MOLARS FROM BOTH SIDES OF UPPER JAW), WAS OF MEDIUM BUILD, RANGED IN WEIGHT BETWEEN 160 AND 170 POUNDS AND WAS FIVE FEET EIGHT AND ONE FOURTH INCHES IN HEIGHT. X-RAYS OF MOUTH FROM 1965 ARE AVAILABLE.

2. LARGE DISPARITY IN HEIGHT AND INDICATION THAT LAS PALMAS REMAINS MISSING ONLY ONE TOOTH FROM UPPER JAW INDICATE THAT BODY INTERRED THERE NOT THAT OF GATCH. NEVERTHELESS, PRIOR TO NOTIFYING GATCH RELATIVES OF THIS DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT WILL APPRECIATE RECEIVING FOLLOWING INFORMATION FROM EMBASSY: (A) CONFIRMATION THAT PREVIOUSLY FURNISHED DESCRIPTION OF REMAINS IS ACCURATE; (B) WHETHER LAS PALMAS AUTHORITIES COMPETENT TO MAKE CONCLUSIVE COMPARISON BETWEEN REMAINS AND GATCH X-RAYS; (C) AN ESTIMATE OF COST OF EXHUMATION AND COMPARISON; AND (D) ANY INFORMATION AVAILABLE CONCERNING MATTER RAISED FINAL PARAGRAPH REFTEL. KISSINGER

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